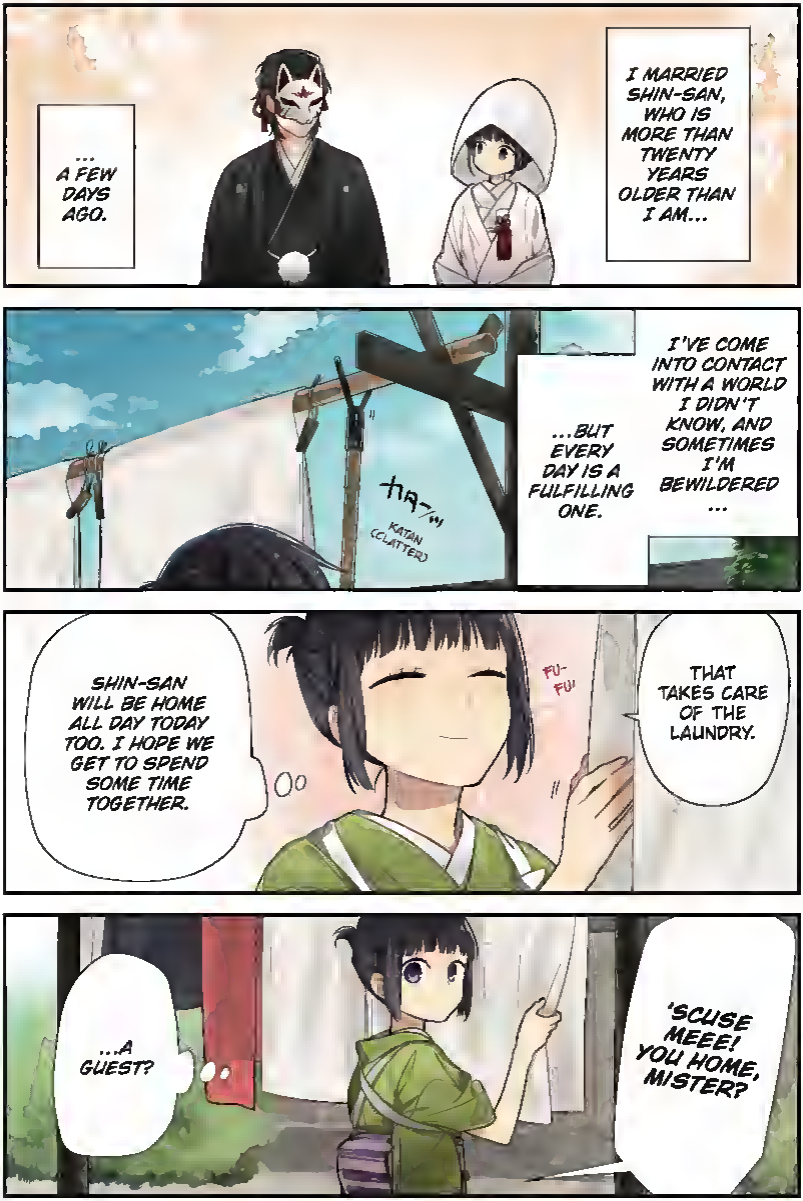
NE NE NE

CHAPTER 4

〖STORY〗 Shizuku Totono

〖ART〗 Daisuke Hagiwara


I MARRIED SHIN-SAN, WHO IS MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS OLDER THAN I AM...
... A FEW DAYS AGO.
I'VE COME INTO CONTACT WITH A WORLD I DIDN'T KNOW, AND SOMETIMES I'M BEWILDERED ...
...BUT EVERY DAY IS A FULFILLING ONE.
KATAN (CLATTER)
THAT TAKES CARE OF THE LAUNDRY.
FU-FU
SHIN-SAN WILL BE HOME ALL DAY TODAY TOO. I HOPE WE GET TO SPEND SOME TIME TOGETHER.
'SCUSE MEEE! YOU HOME, MISTER?
...A GUEST?

NO NO NO
CHAPTER
4

NENENE

MISTEEER!
MISTER HANABUSAAA!
SHIIIN (SILENCE)
MOM SAID TO GIVE YOU SOME PICKLES!
PATA (PATTER)
PATA
PATA
PATA
HAA (SIGH)
...IS HE GONE OR SOMETHING?
KARARA (RATTLE)
I'M SORRY! I THINK SHIN-SAN'S IN HIS WORKROOM...

KOTEN (TILT)
こてん
DID YOU NEED SOMETHING?
PEKAAA (GLEAM)
ペカー
ズガーン
ZUGAAAAN (CRANKADOWN)
THAT WAS THE SOUND OF SOMEBODY FALLING IN LOVE.
HARA (TREMBLE)
はら
HARA (TREMBLE)
はら
?
WHAT? WE GOT A GUEST?

THAT'S SHOUTA, THE NEXT-DOOR NEIGHBORS' SECOND BOY.
SHOUTA, THIS IS KOYUKI.
MY W—
I-IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU!
I'M SHOUTA!
I LIVE RIGHT NEXT DOOR, SO FEEL FREE TO TALK TO ME ANYTIME! PLEASE!
ZUN (STOMP)
UM, UH
ZUN
THIS REALLY ISN'T MUCH, BUT HERE!
IT'S ALL YOURS!!!
ZU! CLEANO
YOU'RE TIPPING OVER
TH...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH...
HE'S CLOSE!!!

AH! YOUR MOTHER'S SAKE-PICKLED VEGETABLES, HM?
THANKS.
NO. NO
IT'S NOTHING SPECIAL. REALLY
HEH! 3
YOU DIDN'T MAKE THEM.
WHY ARE YOU SHOWING OFF?
YOU'RE ACTING STRANGE TODAY. DID YOU EAT SOMETHING WEIRD?
BIKU (FLINCH)
I'M ALWAYS LIKE THIS, MISTER!
I BET YOU'RE JUST GETTING FORGETFUL 'COS YOU'RE OLD.
YOU'RE AN OLD GUY SO THERE'S NO HELPING IT
PUHYU (SNORT)
...
GENUINELY TICKED OFF

COME TO THINK OF IT, YOU'RE ABOUT KOYUKI'S AGE, AREN'T YOU, SHOUTA?
...OH.
!!
WHEN YOU STAND NEXT TO EACH OTHER LIKE THAT, YOU LOOK PRETTY GOOD TOGETHER.
ぱっ
PA (GLANCE)
WE LOOK GOOD TOGETHER !!!
!!?
ぶぴぴっ
BUSSUUUU (SULK)

TO THINK A GIRL LIKE THAT LIVES NEXT DOOR ...
SHOUTA-KUN.
WISHFUL THINKING
U FU FU.
GOO (DAAAZE)
KOYUKI, HUH...?
BUT WHY'S SHE AT THE OLD GUY'S HOUSE!?
HA (GASP)
HUH?
*SHE'S HIS WIFE.
OH. I BET SHE'S HIS DAUGHTER.
...
*SHE'S HIS WIFE.
...I-KINDA DON'T LIKE THAT IDEA.
IF KOYUKI AND I GET MARRIED, IS THAT GUY GONNA BE MY FATHER-IN-LAW?

...YOU LOOK PRETTY GOOD TOGETHER.
WHEN YOU STAND NEXT TO EACH OTHER LIKE THAT..."
MUKU (PUFF)
バスン
BASUN (WHAP)
バスン
BASUN
SHE'S... REALLY WHALING ON THAT THING...
バ
BAN
バ
BAN (THWACK)
バ
BAN
はら
HARA (FRET)
HARA
DOES MY FUTON SMELL THAT BAD!?
はっ
HA
AT THIS AGE, HE WORRIES ABOUT THAT.

MUSU (SULK)
GYU (SQUISH)
GYU
GYU
DAMU
DAMU
DAMU
DAMU
DAMU (STOMP)
DAMU
BAAAN (SLAM)
CHURURURURU (SLURP)
GOKURI (GULP)
THIS ...
...IS WHAT WE HAVE WHEN SHE'S IN A BAD MOOD!!

F-
FOR NOW, I NEED TO SOFTEN THE MOOD, OR ELSE...
CHURUUU
DARA
だら
だらだら
DARA (SWEAT)
DARA
NOT GOOD ...
DID I DO SOMETHING? THE FUTON? WAS IT THE FUTON!?
SUKU (STAND)
THOSE ARE PRETTY TASTY.
COME TO THINK OF IT, WE'VE GOT THE NEIGHBORS' PICKLES.
SUTON (THUMP)
ストン
DON (THWACK)
どんっ
TON
TON
TON (CHOP)
BORI (CRUNCH)
BORI
BORI
BORI
TH...THIS IS AWKWARD ...

UH... KOYUKI-SAN?
DID I DO SOMETHING?
PIKU (FLINCH)
BORO (TEARS)
WHOA !?
AWA
AWA (PANIC)
!?
WHAT!? WHAT IS IT!?
WAS IT REALLY THE FUTON !!?
OR ARE YOU FEELING SICK? SHOULD I CALL THE DOCTOR!?
KA (GRAB)
YES'M!
NEVER MIND THAT! JUST SIT DOWN!!

I AM ANGRY.
NGAA (GARRR)
YES, I'M AWARE OF THAT.
WE HAD UDON TODAY.
SHIN-SAN, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND GIRLS' HEARTS AT ALL.
I'M SORRY ...
TESHI (WHAP)
TESHI
TESHI
TESHI
AND YOU PROBABLY THINK APOLOGIZING LIKE THAT IS ALL IT WILL TAKE, DON'T YOU!?
I'M SORRY!
WHY IS HER GAZE SO CLOUDED?
SHE HASN'T BEEN DRINKING SAKE...
YURA
MUU (GRIP)
YURA (SWAY)
SAKE-PICKLED VEGETABLES.
DEN (245KM)
KOYUKI CAN'T HANDLE SAKE AT ALL!!!

SHIN-SAN, YOU...
SORRY.
RIGHT!
BEN (SMACK)
QUIET!
...THE INFORMATION MIGHT BE HELPFUL LATER...
IF YOU'LL TELL ME WHAT I DID...
YOU SAID WE LOOKED GOOD TOGETHER.
...THAT SHOUTA-KUN AND I SUITED EACH OTHER.
YOU SAID ...
...IF MY OWN HUSBAND SAYS THINGS LIKE THAT?
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO...
...BUT EVEN SO, I AM YOUR WIFE!
I'M A CHILD...AND MAYBE I DON'T SUIT YOU, BUT...

WHEN I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT NOT SEE ME AS YOUR WIFE, IT MADE ME...
...SAD...
...AND FRUSTRATED...
THAT'S WHY WE HAD UDON TODAY!
KUI (TUG)
POSUN (TMP)
...I'M SORRY ABOUT THAT.
I DON'T SEE YOU WITH PEOPLE YOUR OWN AGE MUCH.
I SAID IT WITHOUT THINKING.

I'M SORRY.
JIWA (SNIFFLE)
I WANT A BETTER APOLOGY THAN THAT.
GYUU (HUG)
I ACTED THOUGHTLESSLY TOWARD MY WIFE. I'M SORRY.
MORE SINCERITY ...
I'M SORRY.
I HATE PEOPLE WHO APOLOGIZE RIGHT AWAY.
WHAT!?
KYUU (SQUEEZE)
I HATE BOTH YOU AND UDON...
... SHIN-SAN.

AND SO, THIS...
...IS MY WIFE.
あっさり
ASSARI (BLUNTLY)
SHE IS? OKAY, GOTCHA.
HE DOESN'T SEEM TO CARE THAT MUCH...
IN THAT CASE, KOYUKI ...
...THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO SAY TO YOU TOO.
WHEN THAT OLD DUDE DIES, PLEASE MARRY ME.
DIES!?
きゅっ
GYU
HOLD IT.
HEY.

IF IT'S FOR YOU, KOYUKI, I'LL WAIT AS LONG AS IT TAKES.
HE'LL BE DEAD IN ANOTHER TWENTY OR THIRTY YEARS ANYWAY.
ZUI (LEAN)
IF YOU LEAVE HIM, I'LL TAKE YOU ANYTIME!
...AND RUN OFF TOGETH—
OR, Y'KNOW, WE COULD KNOCK HIM DOWN NOW...
KA (GLEAM)
SHUUUU (PHWIISH)
PISHAN (CLACK)
BURU (SHAKE)
BURU
BURU
AND DON'T COME BACK !!

DON'T WORRY.
PON (TMP)
YEESH... THAT BRAT IS SOMETHING ELSE.
WHADDAYA THINK YOU'RE DOING, MISTER!? HEEEEY!!
DON
DON
DON (BAM)
THAT STARTLED ME...
I'M NOT GIVING YOU TO ANYBODY.
HM? WHAT ARE YOU GRINNING ABOUT?
NOTHING.
PO (BLUSH)
PO
PO
TO BE CONTINUED!

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4

[STORY] Shizuku Totono

[ART] Daisuke Hagiwara

TRANSLATION: TAYLOR ENGEL
LETTERING: BIANCA PISTILLO

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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